

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 8 and 9 are amended and claims 22 and 23 are added. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Ackun in the July 18, 2007 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,487,694 to Deming; and rejects claims 1-17 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0121596 to Greven, U.S. Patent No. 5,837,084 to Barss, U.S. Patent No. 3,739,679 to Schwend and U.S. Patent No. 4,111,085 to Johnson. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "forming honeycomb segments having cells disposed parallel to a central axis of the honeycomb segment, each cell being surround by porous partition walls functioning as filters, and each cell functioning as a fluid passage; combining the honeycomb segments to form the crude honeycomb structure using a bonding agent" and "finishing the processed honeycomb structure to obtain the honeycomb structure with a predetermined shape." Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, original claim 3 and page 17, line 4 - page 18, line 4.

As discussed during the July 18, 2007 telephone interview, Deming fails to teach or disclose the forming of honeycomb segments, the combining of the honeycomb segments and the finishing of the processed honeycomb structure to obtain the honeycomb structure with a predetermined shape. Any combination of the applied references fail to teach or disclose the

forming of honeycomb segments, combining the honeycomb segments or the finishing of the processed honeycomb structure to obtain the honeycomb structure with a predetermined shape. Accordingly, the applied references, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentable over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 22 and 23

Claims 22 and 23 are added. Support for claims 22 and 23 can be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 3A and 3B and page 13, lines 10-20, and page 22, lines 7-18, respectively. Claims 22 and 23 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:OHC/mdw

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

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